

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Unless they willingly agree to show an equal but opposite view documentary it is evident that they intend to use the public airways to promote a particular ideology to the exclusion of other views.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies such as Sinclair control the airwaves to the extent that they control what the public is allowed to hear, we get warped perspectives, a manipulation of ideas, and less of the information citizens need to strengthen our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.